February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Re: Please Support SB 929 – An Act Expanding School Meal Programs

Dear Honorable Members of the Connecticut Committee on Children,

Please support SB 929, and provide free school meal programs for all.

In a state with excellent means, we need to remove the stigma of free meals for a few. By providing meals to all kids, we lessen the embarrassment and improve participation when a child receives a meal regardless of income.

Furthermore, a meal program for all improves learning, lessens absenteeism, reduces administrative costs, and alleviates school district debt for needy parents who have unpaid meal bills.

Thank you for consideration of this excellent bill. This is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Dempsey 21 Hillside Road Greenwich, CT 06830